

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/274,250

Applicant(s)

KOMURO, TOSHINAO

Examiner

Steven P. Sax

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/17/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-24.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

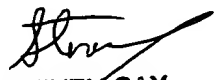
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


STEVEN SAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This application has been examined. The amendment filed 6/17/05 has been entered.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The amendment filed 6/17/05 places the application into condition for allowance by canceling out the rejected claims. The prior art may show favorites, as well as monitoring specific URL access and web sites, but the prior art does not show the present invention of the URL (universal resource locator) accessing system which, for a plurality of URLs, counts the number of times a web page or image associated with a given URL has been accessed, compares the number to a stored threshold value for the given URL, and if the number exceeds the associated threshold then sets an importance degree mark which is to be displayed for the associated URL on the display. This embodiment is recited in independent claims 2 (viewer, reciting language in terms of accessing the image associated with the URL), 13 (method), 16 (method, reciting language in terms of accessing the image associated with the URL), 19 (browser). The embodiment of claim 21 displays a user activatable indicia of a URL for an already displayed and accessed resource associated with the URL, in a visual emphasis different than the visual emphasis that was displayed when the resource was already accessed and displayed from a prior occurrence. Again, whether the prior art (note the present application has priority back to September 1998) may show displaying an already displayed URL in a form different than when first accessed is nevertheless not

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the more advanced technique of the present invention, which displays the indicia in yet another emphasis different than the emphasis displayed for an already accessed and displayed URL, when the associated URL resource is yet again displayed. The present invention has the ability to go beyond merely indicating that a URL was accessed at some prior point, in that by counting at least beyond a second occurrence and distinguishing it. This technique would not be an obvious change to the prior art, especially in September 1998, in that it involves requiring the threshold storing and counting feature to determine specific number of times a URL was accessed, as opposed to merely remembering a URL was ever accessed (regardless of how many times). The technique is brought out in claim 21 (process) and is not shown in the prior art of record.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven P. Sax whose telephone number is (571) 272-4072. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


STEVEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER